

# Solving the Puncheon puzzle

Front Page

By **Ken Grant**  
Staff writer

DOVER — What's in a name?

The names of most of Delaware's towns, rivers, roads and bridges can be traced back to Native American roots, early Dutch settlers or the state's more prominent families.

But where did the name "Puncheon Run" come from?

The book "Delaware Place Names" tells us the four-mile Puncheon branch of the St. Jones River was formally named by the Board of Geographic Names in 1898, but it doesn't indicate why that name was chosen.

Calls to various authorities in Kent County and the state left many officials scratching their heads as to how the name came to be assigned.

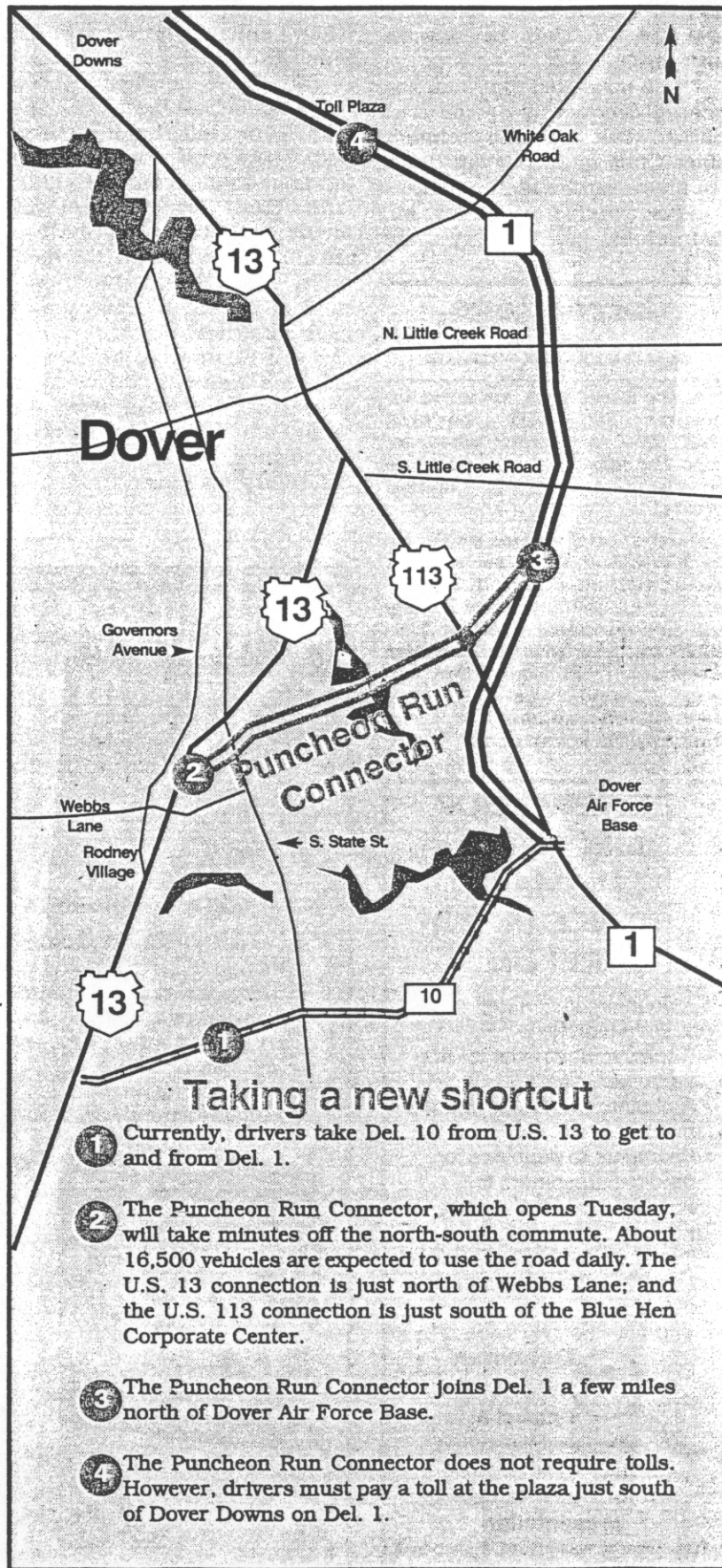
Webster's Dictionary offers two sets of definitions for the word puncheon.

"A pointed tool for piercing or for working on stone; a short upright framing timber; a split log or heavy slab with the face smoothed," is the first set.

Puncheon also is defined as "a large cask of varying capacity; any of various units of liquid capacity (as a unit equal to 70 gallons)."

If any of our readers know the story behind the name of this stream of water, feel free to share it with the rest of us.

*Ken Grant can be reached at 741-8226 or [kgrant@newszap.com](mailto:kgrant@newszap.com).*



## Taking a new shortcut

- 1 Currently, drivers take Del. 10 from U.S. 13 to get to and from Del. 1.
- 2 The Puncheon Run Connector, which opens Tuesday, will take minutes off the north-south commute. About 16,500 vehicles are expected to use the road daily. The U.S. 13 connection is just north of Webb's Lane; and the U.S. 113 connection is just south of the Blue Hen Corporate Center.
- 3 The Puncheon Run Connector joins Del. 1 a few miles north of Dover Air Force Base.
- 4 The Puncheon Run Connector does not require tolls. However, drivers must pay a toll at the plaza just south of Dover Downs on Del. 1.